



GAMBIT



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FABIAN Nicieza
VANICK Paquette

HE HISSES OUT A BREATH. IT SURFS A WAVE OF RED BILE

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BEEN A TOUGH DAY, HUH, CAJUN?

BEEN A TOUGH LIFE, REMY THINKS.

WHAT A COMPLETELY PATHETIC WAY TO DIE.

ESPECIALLY SINCE FINALLY — AFTER YEARS OF RUNNING IN CIRCLES —

— HE HAD FOUND SO MUCH WORTH LIVING FOR...

8 WEEKS AGO, JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

?!
!!

ROGUE HADN'T FELT THE ELECTRIC THRILL OF A LOVER'S TOUCH IN...

...FOREVER.

NOT LIKE THIS! NOT WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED!

LIKE REMY, ROGUE IS A MUTANT, A MEMBER OF THE OUTLAW X-MEN.

GAMBIT

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

A Story of Looking Back
In Order to Move Forward
brought to you by:

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inker

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letters

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kicking & screaming!

HER POWER PREVENTS HER FROM TOUCHING ANYONE FOR FEAR OF PERMANENTLY ABSORBING THEIR MEMORIES, THEIR POWERS — THEIR VERY SOULS.

OR, AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT SHE THOUGHT...

WHAT?!
HOW?!

THE "WHAT" IS CALLED A KISS, THERE.

THE "HOW" IS A BIT MORE... COMPLICATED...



YOU CALLED FROM SYMKARIA TO TELL ME YOU WERE BACK FROM YOUR LITTLE TRIP THROUGH TIME --

-- AN' YOU SAID YOU HAD A SURPRISE FOR ME --

-- BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS! SURPRISE.



ROGUEY, WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME WORRYIN' ABOUT YOUR POWERS KEEPIN' US FROM HAVIN' A REAL RELATIONSHIP --



"-- WHEN ALL IT TOOK WAS A BIT OF... TWEAKIN' ON MY POWERS INSTEAD!"



DETAILS!

WELL, WHILE I WAS STUCK IN TH' PAST WITH COURIER --

-- AN' THANKS FOR HELPIN' OUT SEK, SHE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED --

-- WE FOUND OUT TH' ONLY WAY WE COULD GET BACK HOME --

SEE LAST ISSUE: WIDE

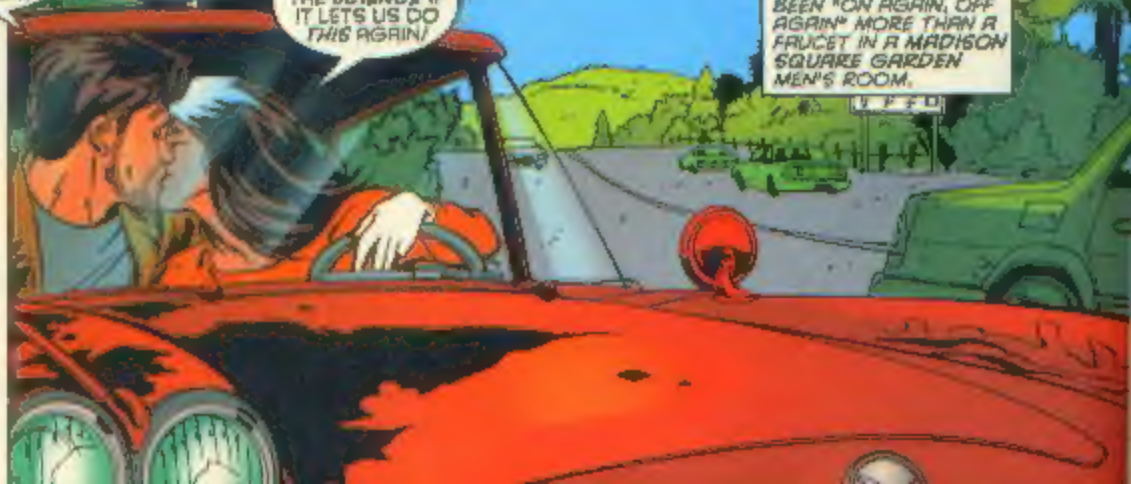
-- INVOLVED... STRETCHIN' MY BIOKINETIC CHARGIN' ABILITIES A BIT.

EXACTLY. NOW... AS LIFE'S SAID... COMPLICATED.

WHO CARES 'BOUT THE SCIENCE IF IT LETS US DO THIS AGAIN!

REMY TAKES IT TO MEAN THEY'RE NOT "BROKEN UP".

SINCE RETURNING TO THE X-MEN, THEY'D BEEN "ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN" MORE THAN A FAUCET IN A MADISON SQUARE GARDEN MEN'S ROOM.





7 WEEKS AGO.

THE NEW SON'S
CRYSTAL
CATHEDRAL

NO, I
AM NOT
OKAY!

BUT
FROM THE
WHINING TONE
OF YOUR VOICE,
JACOB...

... AT LEAST
YOU'RE BACK TO
NORMAL.

A-HAAA!

THE
NEW SON,
MYSTERIOUS
WORLD-
SCULPTOR
MAKES A
JOKE!

OR DO
YOU PREFER...
JACQUELINE
NOW?

AND
THE LAUGHS
JUST KEEP
COMING!

AND
TELL YOUR
SHADOWTECHS TO
STOP BEING SO
GRABBY!

BELIEVE
ME WHEN I
TELL YOU THEY
HAVE ABSOLUTELY
NO AMOROUS
INCLINATIONS
TOWARDS
YOU.

ACCORDING TO
THEIR DIAGNOSTIC
SCANS, YOUR MUTANT
ABILITY TO MORPH
YOUR CELLULAR
STRUCTURE REMAINS
INTACT...

... BUT IT CONTINUES
TO REVERT TO THIS
FEMALE FORM.

SPEAKING
OF FEMALE
FORMS --

-- THIS ONE
WOULD LIKE TO
TELL "HIS MAJESTY"
THAT WHAT HE
WAS PLANNED IS
MESSSED UP!



FIRST OF ALL, FONTANELLE...

I HAVE NEVER DISPLAYED ASPIRATIONS OF A DICTATORIAL NATURE OR MONARCHIST INTENT!

AND SECOND OF ALL -- YOUR OPINION IS NOT REQUIRED!

YOU HAVE PERFORMED YOUR ASSIGNED TASK WELL, FONTANELLE.



THROUGH YOUR TELEPATHIC DREAM PROBES OF THE PEOPLE GAMBIT HAS KNOWN --

-- YOU HAVE GIVEN ME VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR MY PLANS.



VALUABLE FOR THE PLAN YOU ORIGINALLY SOLD ME ON -- TO MAKE THE WORLD A SAFER PLACE FOR HUMANS AND MUTANTS!



CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE DICTATED THAT I... ALTER MY PLANS.

IF THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED, IT IS TO... GO WITH THE FLOW.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS DONE, FONTANELLE!

YOUR SERVICES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED!



AND WHAT OF YOU, COURIER?

HAS YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH LEBEAU WEAKENED YOUR RESOLVE?

I... NO... IT HASN'T.

THEN GO DO YOUR JOB, JACOB... DELIVER MY MESSAGE TO THE APPROPRIATE PARTIES...



6 WEEKS AGO.

LOGUARDIA AIRPORT.

ARRIVING
AT GATE TWELVE,
FLIGHT 147 FROM
NEW ORLEANS ---

THIS IS WHAT NORMAL LIFE
IS LIKE, SHE THINKS. THE
ANTICIPATION OF WAITING...

... WAITING FOR
THE MAN YOU
LOVE TO STEP
OFF A PLANE...

... SO
YOU
CAN...

ZZZZT

OW!
I FELT
THAT!

SORRY.
HMMM, MAYBE
DIS EXTERNAL
FIELD REACTS TO...
STIMULATION?

I'M
SURE.

"DIS."

HUMP

YOU
SAID "DIS"
INSTEAD OF
"THIS."

YOU ALWAYS
GET EXTRA
EXTRA SPICE ON
YOUR ACCENT
AFTER YOU
VISIT YOUR
FATHER.

NOW?

NON, MON
AMI. NOT UNTIL
WE UNDERSTAND
HEEM BETTAIR.

VALEM CENTER,
WESTCHESTER.

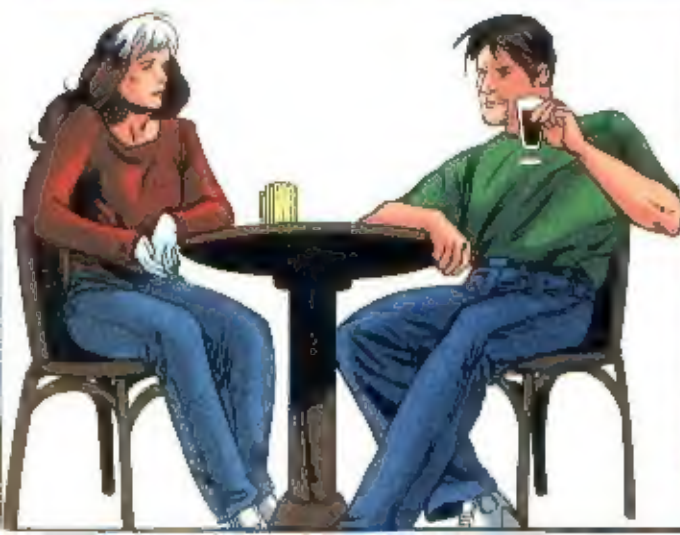
THE STUDENTS AT THE
XAVIER INSTITUTE DOWN
THE ROAD HAVE COME
HERE FOR YEARS TO
UNWIND.

THEY EVEN HELPED
HARRY REBUILD THE
PLACE AFTER BEING
RESPONSIBLE FOR
TEARING IT DOWN
MONTHS AGO.

HARRY'S HIDEAWAY

SO...
YOU GONNA
TALK ABOUT
WHAT YOUR
POPPA
WANTED?

JUS'
SOME CHANGES
IN THE GUILD...
MIGHT MEAN
DEY'RE -- THEY'RE --
GON' HAVE T' LET
ME OFFICIALLY
BACK IN.





EVERYONE'S ALWAYS ON ME ABOUT TELLIN' TH' TRUTH --

-- BUT IT NEVER WORKS BOTH WAYS. NEVER STOPS PEOPLE FROM KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME...



THIS IS ABOUT MORE'N YOU AN' ME... ISN'T IT, REMY?

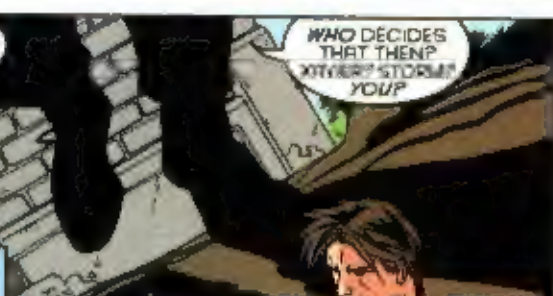
I GET SLAPPED IN TH' FACE BY EVERY SINGLE MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE --

-- ABOUT ANY PERSONAL THING I'VE CHOSEN TO HOLD BACK --

-- BUT DOES ANYONE ELSE? DOES WOLVERINE? DO YOU?



SOME THINGS... THEY HAVE TO STAY PERSONAL...



WHO DECIDES THAT THEN? X-THE? STORM? YOU?



WHEN AM I ALLOWED TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS FOR MYSELF?

ALL I'VE EVER DONE SINCE JOINING THE X-MEN IS EVERYTHIN' I'VE BEEN ASKED TO DO -- AN' I'VE DONE THEM WELL!



YOU'D THINK THE LEAST I COULD GET IS A PAT ON TH' BACK...

... BUT THE LEAST I GOT WAS GETTIN' LEFT TO DIE IN A FROZEN WASTELAND...



AN' I KNOW YOU APOLOGIZED FOR THAT, ROGUE...

... BUT I NEVER DID SAY THAT I ACCEPTED THAT APOLOGY, DID I?

THIS IS WHAT NORMAL IS LIKE, SHE THINKS. AND IT HURTS.

ANYONE HERE, TANTE MATTIE?

THOUGH, I UNDERSTAND WHY WE'VE SEEN SO LITTLE OF YOU.

CONSIDERIN' THE PROBLEMS... THE THIEVES GUILD HAVE FACED IN RECENT MONTHS.

ABOLT DAT.

I'ANK YOU, BELLA DONNA. AN' T TH' WHOLE ASSASSINING GUILD FOR INDOULGIN' AN OLD WOMAN.

WT JEAN LUC LEBEAU GONE, TH' EYES GUILD IS IN DISORDER.

I KNOW BOLT YOUR MOST RECENT CONTRACT 'S WRONG CH.

NOW IS A TIME FOR UNITY, BEL! YOU TAKE DAT CONTRACT YOU'LL TEAR DE GUILD APART!

YOU'D PREFER I HELP TO REUNITE THE GUILDS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THOUSANDS OF YEARS?

LIKE MY MARRIAGE T REMY WAS SPOSED T HAVE DONE?

THAT'D BE NICE, TANTE -- AN' NO DISRESPECT INTENDED, YOU ARE OUR TRATEUR, OUR HEALER --

AS MUCH A MOMMA TO MOST OF US AS OUR REAL MOTHERS WERE.

BUT T TH' ASSASSINING GUILD A CONTRACT 'S A SACRED BOND AND BECAUSE OF DAT.

-- REMY LEBEAU IS AS GOOD AS DEAD!

4 WEEKS AGO

CLIFF'S INTERVIEW
OUTSIDE OF VANCOUVER,
BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE WEAPONS
RESEARCH FACILITY
IS A FRONT FOR
INTERNATIONAL
ARMS MERCHANT,
JUSTIN HAMMER*

HAMMER
ENTERPRISES

BE BOUND IN YOUR
WIFE

THESE NEW
VIBRANIUM
COILS WORK
GREAT MR.
HAMMER

THEY'RE
TOTALLY
SILENT!

WELL, YOUR
ADAMANTIUM ONES
NEEDED REPLACING
CONSTRUCTOR

I KNOW
YOU'VE HAD
LOTS OF LEGAL
PROBLEMS
LATELY SO
DOIN' THIS
FOR ME

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY
ANYTHING YOU
NEED IN RETURN
IT'S YOURS

ACTUALLY
I HAVE BEEN
OFFERED SOME
VERY RARE
INFORMATION ON A
TERRAFORMER

AND THE COURIER HERE,
WHO HAS BEEN DISPATCHED
BY THE CURRENT HOLDER OF
THAT TECHNOLOGY

SAYS I
CAN BE MINE IF
I ACCOMPLISH
ONE SIMPLE
THING

-- KILL THE
MAN CALLED
GAMBIT!

ANY ON
LIBERAL?
OH
YEAH I'D
BE HAPPY TO
DO THAT



3 WEEKS AGO.

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHER LEARNING

SPECIFICALLY, WE
X-MEN'S UNDERGROUND
TRAINING CENTER KNOWN
AS THE DANGER ROOM

W-EMMY
YOU BURNED
US!

NON, I
COULDN'T
MY FIELD DOESN'T
GENERATE HEAT
RADIATION

IT'S
KINETIC
ENERGY. IT
MIGHT FEEL LIKE
A BURN.

BUT IT'S
JUST ALL YOUR
CELLS DOING A
DANCE AT THE
SAME TIME.

BUT I
AFFECT MEET
EVEN IN MY
BIOMETALLIC
ARMORED
FORM - P

MORE IN
THAT COLOSSUS
SINCE WHEN
CAN GAMBIT
CHARGE HUMAN
TISSUE?

HMM.
WAS HOPEFUL
YOU WOULD
PICK UP ON
THAT.

THE
REMY
HAT YOU CAN
CONTROL. WITH
HE
CONTENTS. IF THIS
WILL DO IT FOR YOU

YOU'LL FIND
OUT WHEN
YOU'RE OLDER
THAT I COULDN'T
CONTROL IT
WHEN I WAS
YOUNGER.

BUT I
DON'T HAVE
MUCH CHOICE
NOW IF I WANT TO
GET BACK HOME.

IS THIS
POWER NEW?
OR IS IT ANOTHER
THING WE LIVE
HIDDEN FROM IS
ALL ALONG.

THAT'S NOT
FAIR. PETER
WHATEVER'S
HAPPENING TO
REMY IS A RESULT
OF THE DECISIONS
HE MADE TO
GET BACK HOME.



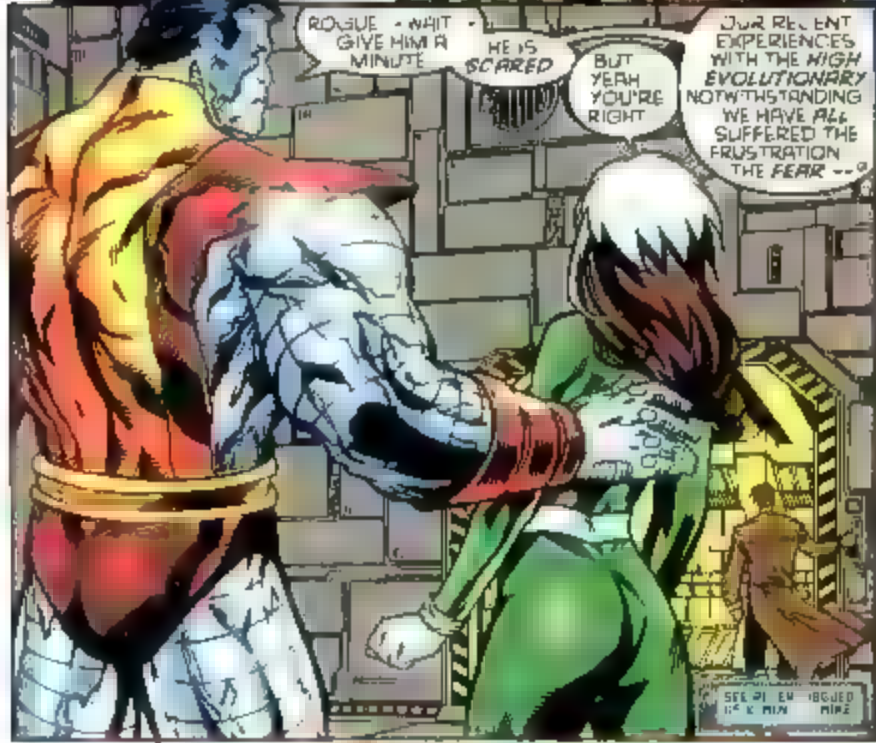
BUT IT
IS TIME TO
COME CLEAN.
REMY TEL US
EVERYTHIN'

EVERYTHIN'
HMM

Hmph.

I TELL YOU
EVERYTHIN' NOW.
MIGHT AS WELL
BOOK MY ONE WAY
TICKET BACK TO
ANTARCTICA.

REMY
LET THAT GO!
YOU'RE BEIN'
TOTALLY



ROGUE - WAIT
GIVE HIM A
MINUTE

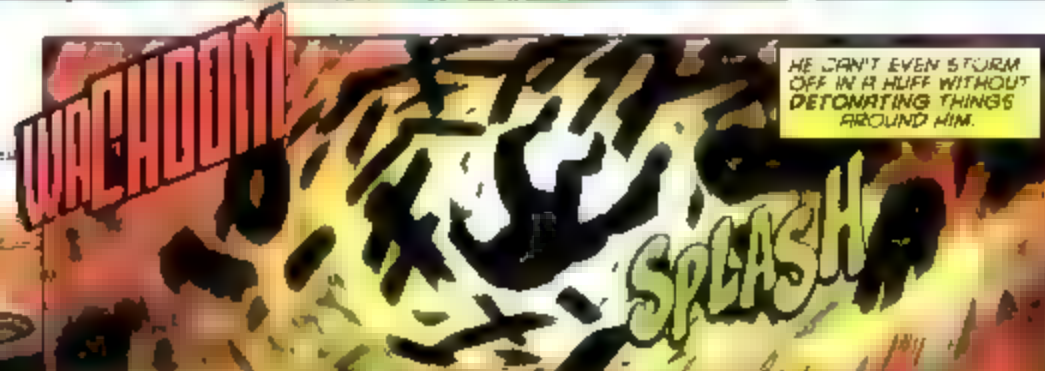
HE IS
SCARED

BUT
YEAH
YOU'RE
RIGHT

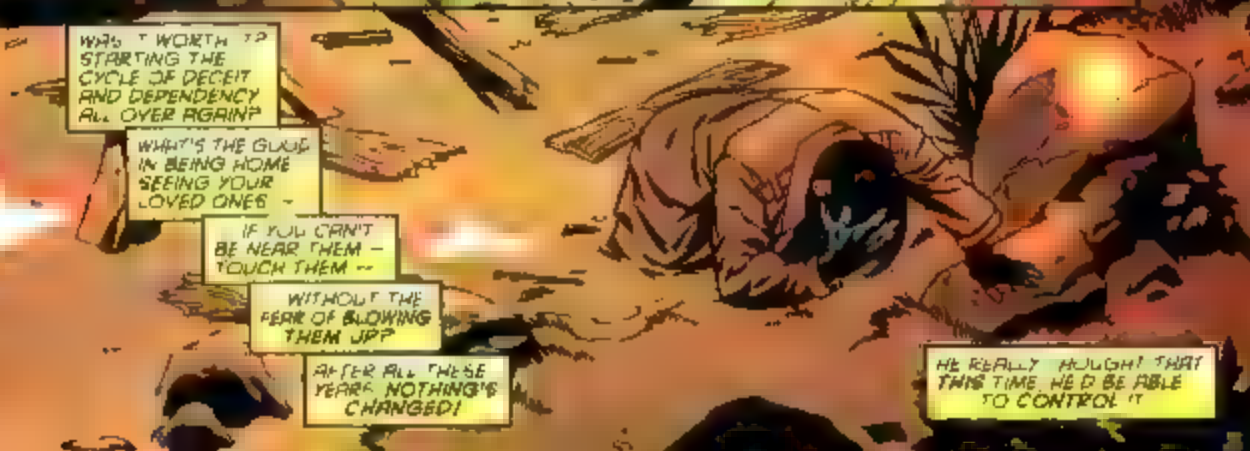
OUR RECENT
EXPERIENCES
WITH THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY
NOTWITHSTANDING
WE HAVE ALL
SUFFERED THE
FRUSTRATION
THE FEAR --



"... OF NOT BEING
IN CONTROL OF
OUR POWERS"



HE CAN'T EVEN STORM
OFF IN A HUFF WITHOUT
DETONATING THINGS
AROUND HIM.



WAS IT WORTH TO
STARTING THE
CYCLE OF DECEIT
AND DEPENDENCY
ALL OVER AGAIN?


WHAT'S THE GOOD
IN BEING HOME
SEEING YOUR
LOVED ONES

IF YOU CAN'T
BE NEAR THEM -
TOUCH THEM --


WITHOUT THE
FEAR OF BLOWING
THEM UP?

AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS NOTHING'S
CHANGED!

HE REALLY THOUGHT THAT
THIS TIME, HE'D BE ABLE
TO CONTROL IT



NOTHING
PERSONAL



SHOULD YOU
NEED INTRODUCTIONS:
MISJEL LIBERAD - AND
SHAME ON US IF SUCH IS
THE CASE I AM
BATROC ZE
LEAPER

MY
ASSOCIATE
S ZARAN, THE
WEAPONS
MASTER
AND
YOU ARE
A DEAD
MAN.

NOW'S
REALLY NOT A
GOOD TIME
GUYS


YOU ARE IN
NO POSITION TO BE
DETERMINING SUCH
MATTERS



MY
BLADE?

else
POP

THWUP



YOU
RELY TOO
MUCH ON YOUR
TOYS, MON
AMI
BUT AS A
MASTER OF
GAYATE, I
CAN -



OH, SHUT UP, Y'GOT A KICK IN 'CAUSE I'M IN NO MOOD FOR THIS.

ZEN SHALL WE END T MERCIFULLY? HONOR JICTAFES ZAT WE COMPLETE ZE ASSIGNMENT WE HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED FOR

HONOR PLUS YOU'RE WORKIN' HALF UP FRONT HALF ON COMPLETION?

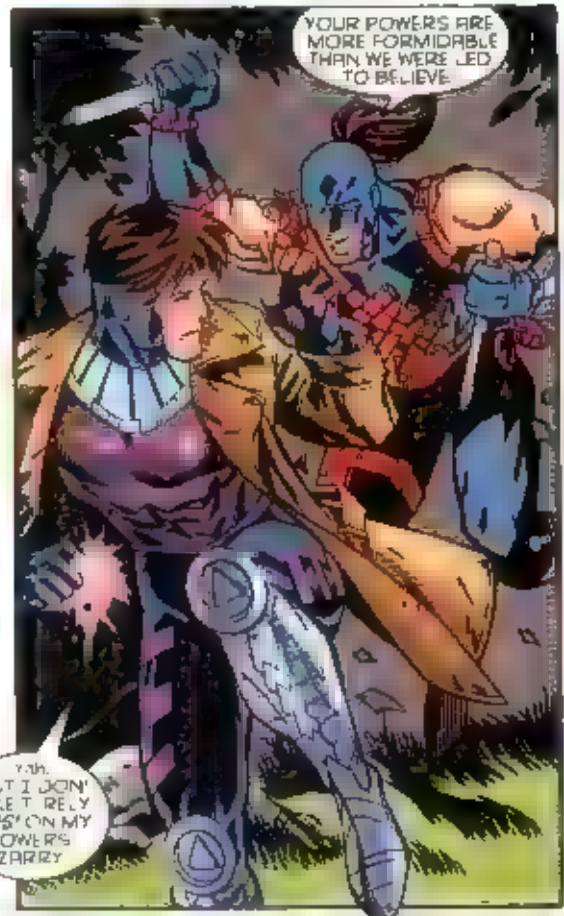


SLASS

QUEST LE?



POP



YOUR POWERS ARE MORE FORMIDABLE THAN WE WERE LED TO BELIEVE

YAH, BUT I DON' LIKE T RELY JUS' ON MY POWERS ZARRY



I AM ALSO ZE MASTER OF SAVATE

THWUDD



"I WILLIN' LET
CHUCK AN' ALL THE
VARIOUS LAB COATS
HANDIN' AROUND TH'
MANSION PLAY PIN-
CUSHION WITH ME."

HANK MCCOY, THE BEAST,
AND DR. CECILIA REYES
EMERGE FROM YET ANOTHER
ROUND OF DIAGNOSTIC
TESTING.

LONG
FACES -
AGAIN!

ROGUE, I
UNDERSTAND YOUR
FRUSTRATION, BUT
THE CHANGES IN
REMY ARE
PROFOUND.

HE HAS
HAD RECENT
SURGERY - A BIT
CRUDE BY OUR
STANDARDS --

-- BUT IT'S
RADICALLY
ALTERED HOW HIS
MUTANT POWERS
OPERATE ON A
PHYSIOLOGICAL AND
NEUROLOGICAL
LEVEL.

AND IN
ENGLISH?

HE IS MUCH
MORE POWERFUL.
SIMPLE AS
THAT.

WE CAN
CHARGE THINGS
WITHOUT
TOUCHING
THEM.

HE IS FASTER,
STRONGER, AND
IN PERPETUAL
BIOKINETIC
HYPERACTIVITY.

HE'S ADJUSTING TO THE
CHANGES, THOUGH, AND
GAINING BETTER CONTROL
OVER HIS POWERS BUT
EMOTIONALLY.

HE'S ANGRY
ROGUE ABOUT
THIS SITUATION
AND MORE.

HE WON'T
TALK ABOUT IT
I WAS HOPING HE
MIGHT BE MORE
WILLING TO
OPEN UP TO
YOU.

DOUBT
THAT.

OFF
AGAIN?

ASK ME
AGAIN IN
FOUR CE. SEEMS
T CHANGE LIKE
THE WIND.

BITES HER LIP BITES
HER TONGUE

SO MUCH TO SAY BUT
ANYTIME EACH OF THEM
OPEN THEIR MOUTHS --

THE WORDS COME
OUT WRONG

FOR SO LONG
THEY WANTED
WHAT THEY
COULDN'T HAVE,
AND NOW

NOW.

...NOW SHE
DOESN'T KNOW
WHAT SHE WANTS...

IT WAS
LIKE A GOOD
DREAM, WASN'T
IT, REMY?

LIKE GOD
WANTIN' T' GIVE
US A FEW WEEKS
OF HAPPINESS FOR
ALL THE PAIN
WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH.

YAH, I'M
SORRY 'BOUT
HOW I BEEN --
TH' USUAL, WE
PUSH EACH
OTHER AWAY
WHEN WE'RE
SCARED.

GUESS
IT WAS MY
TURN THIS TIME,
TAG, YOU'RE
IT.

I DON'T
WANNA PLAY
THE GAME
ANYMORE.

ME,
NEITHER.

IT'S
NOT FAIR/
WE WERE...
ALMOST
HAPPY...

YOU
REALLY
THINK
SOP?

I DON'T THINK
WE EVEN TOOK
FIVE STEPS DOWN
THE ROAD TOWARD
KNOWIN' WHAT
HAPPINESS
REALLY IS --

-- MUCH LESS
ACTUALLY BEIN'
HAPPY.

FOR TWO
PEOPLE WHO
KEEP SAYIN' WE
WANT LOVE... WE
SURE DO GO AN
AWFUL LONG
WAY T' AVOID
IT.



HANK AN' CECILIA SAID MY POWERS ARE GON' GET WORSE.

IT HAPPENED T' ME ONCE BEFORE -- AFTER I WAS KICKED OUTTA TH' GUILD WHEN I WAS EIGHTEEN.

WHAT DID YOU DO THEN?



SAME AS NOW, MINUS A CENTURY, SINISTER.

Oh.

I WON' GO BACK T' HIM THIS TIME, THOUGH. I WON'T BE IN HIS DEBT AGAIN.

IN TH' MEANTIME, I HAVE TO STAY FROSTY. I GET TOO EXCITED, I'M LIABLE TO LOSE CONTROL.



I GUESS "BREAK-UP MESSIN' AROUND" IS OUT?

Heh. Yeh.

AT TH' END OF TH' DAY, ROGUE, YOU KNOW WHAT ALWAYS KEPT US APART?



WE DID.

BECAUSE BOTH OF US HAVE BEEN RUNNIN' AWAY FOR SO LONG --

-- THAT TO RUN INTO EACH OTHER WOULD'VE MEANT CONFRONTIN' AN' DEALIN' AN' ACCEPTIN' EVERYTHIN' THAT HAPPENED IN OUR PASTS.

NEITHER ONE OF US IS READY FOR THAT. TWO STUPID PEOPLE TOO AFRAID OF LIFE!

I'M READY T' CHANGE -- T' MOVE FORWARD -- BUT I KNOW I CAN'T DO IT WITH YOU... NOT UNTIL YOU'RE READY T' DO IT FOR YOURSELF.

SO THE CAROUSEL STOPS AN' IT'S TIME TO GET OFF, CHERE, FOR BOTH OUR SAKES.

MAYBE SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD, WE'LL BE READY TO RIDE THE CAROUSEL AGAIN... TOGETHER.

YOU WERE RIGHT. LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN LIKE A DREAM.



TIME TO WAKE UP AND FACE A NEW DAY...

THEIA 020
NEW ORLEANS

IT IS THE MEETING PLACE
FOR THE NEW ORLEANS
THIEVES GUILD.

REMY KICKS GRAVEL,
SUCKING IN HIS
LAST BREATH AS
A FREE MAN.

HE ALWAYS FELT LIKE AN
OUTSIDER HERE, A MUTANT
INTO THE CLAN, A MUTANT
WHO WAS FEARED —

— A WALKING GUILD
PROPHECY HE'D NEVER
EVEN KNOWN ABOUT
UNTIL RECENTLY.

THE GUILD REMNANTS FROM
THE VARIOUS CLANS STARE
AT HIM WITH SUSPICION. NOT
MUCH LEFT AFTER THE FEW
YEARS OF FIGHTING.

THEORON MARCEAUX,
GENARD ALOUETTE,
ZOE ISHIMURA, EMIL
LAPIN, MERCY LOBEAU,
CLAUDE POTIER.

HE'S KNOWN THEM
HIS WHOLE LIFE, BUT
HE STILL FEELS LIKE
A STRANGER.

AN OUTSIDER... AND NEVER
MORE SO THAN THIS DAY...

... WHEN REMY LOBEAU
ASSUMES THE MANTLE —

— AS LEADER AND PATRIARCH
OF THE THIEVES GUILD!

OKAY,
OUR FIRST
ORDER OF
BUSINESS
IS...

... FINDIN' OUT
WHO —
— OTHER
THAN MOST OF
YOU IN THIS
ROOM, THAT
IS —
-- WANTS ME
DEAD!

